Prices of pulses

1697. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the prices of pulses have shown an upward trend during the last six months; if so, the extent thereof; and

(b) the measures proposed to be taken to reduce the prices and increase the production of pulses in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) The Wholesale Price Index (WPI) of Pulses as a sub-Goup moved from 234.3 in January, 1991 to 243.1 in July, 1991 registering an increase of 3.8 per cent.

(b) With a view to augmenting the supply of pulses for the purpose of keeping a check on the prices thereof, import of pulses has been placed under Oper General Licence for the last many years and the customs duty was reduced from 35 per cent to 10 per cent from 1st November, 1989. A statement indicating steps taken/being taken to increase the production of pulses in the country is attached (Annexure).

Annexure

Statement Reg steps taken/being taken to increase the production of pulses

For increasing the production of pulses, two schemes, viz. Centrally Sponsored National Pulses Development Project (NPDP) and Central Sector Special Food Production Programme—pulses (SFPP) are being implemented in the country. During 1991-92, the outlay is Rs. 21.00 crore and Rs. 6.00 crore, respectively. The amount under NPDP is to be met on 75:25 basis on most of the components by the Central and State Governments, whereas 100 per cent expenditure is to be made by the Central Government under SFPP (pulses). The NPDP is being implemented in 134 selected distrcits in the country. The crops covered under the Project are Arhar, Gram, Moong, Urad, lentil and peas. The Project provides for adoption of a dual approach by (i) increasing the area through multiple cropping; and (ii) increasing productivity for unit area. Under this Project assistance is provided for production and distribution of seeds, distribution of seed minikits, plant protection measures, supply of improved farm implements and organising demonstrations to induce the farmers to take up cultivation of pulses with improved technology on large scale. Emphasis is also laid on the stage-wise production and distribution of seeds. Stress is given for the timely and proper use of inputs. Pulses have been included in the mandate of the Technology Mission on Oilseeds (and pulses). An integrated approach to crop production technology, farmers support services, post harvest technology and price support/market intervention is being adopted to increase the productivity levels of pulses. The SFPP provides assistance for the control of Podborer, cutworm and termite for Gram and Arhar crops. Assistance for encouraging the cultivation of summer pulses is provided on the distribution of seeds.

Availability of levy sugar to PDS

1698. SHRI A. G. KULKARNI
SHRI VISHWASRAO RAMRAO PATIL:
DR. BAPU KALDATE:

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of less availability of levy sugar due to delay in deliveries of levy sugar by Sugar Co-operatives or private sector mills to the Public Distribution System; and

(b) whether Government will streamline the procedure of deliveries and sale of free and levy sugar for the period of less availability of sugar and to safeguard the interest of consumers and check blackmarketing?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) As and when complaints are received in this regard, necessary corrective measures are taken by the Government.